Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A voice synthesis apparatus for analyzing characters including a symbol character and for outputting the characters by voice synthesis, comprising:

a first detection module that detects a paragraph section line having a recurrent string pattern and text characters in a series of characters ~~character column~~ of one line, wherein the recurrent string pattern comprises a plurality of strings each including a plurality of kinds of symbols, and wherein a number of symbols to be detected in one of the recurrent string patterns is sequentially incremented up to five; and

a voice synthesis module for performing voice synthesis of the text characters ~~for a rest~~ of the series of characters ~~character column~~, after deletion of the recurrent string pattern ~~deleting the paragraph section line~~ from the ~~character column~~ series of characters.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A voice synthesis apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the recurrent string pattern is comprised of one kind of symbol that is repeated a plurality of times and another kind of symbol.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A voice synthesis apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the paragraph section line includes the another kind of symbol added as a last character of the series of characters ~~character column~~, at an end of the recurrent string pattern.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A voice synthesis apparatus according to claim 1 ~~for analyzing characters including a symbol character and for outputting the characters by voice synthesis~~, further comprising:

a second detection module that detects symmetrical patterns of symbol characters respectively at a beginning and an end of the series of character ~~a character column~~ of one line[[; and]],

[[a]] wherein said voice synthesis module ~~for performing~~ performs voice synthesis of the text characters ~~for a rest~~ of the series of characters ~~character column~~, after deletion of ~~deleting~~ symbol character ~~column~~ intervals from the series of characters ~~character column that have~~, the symbol character intervals having been detected as symmetrical patterns by said second detection module.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A voice synthesis apparatus according to claim 4, wherein respective symbols of the symbol character ~~column~~ intervals have symmetry with respect to shape.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A voice synthesis apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a count module for counting up when a pair of symbols at symmetrical positions within the series of characters ~~character column~~ have the same shape, whereby the detection module deletes respective strings of symbol characters as the symbol character ~~column~~ intervals when said count value is a predetermined value or more.

Claims 7-8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (New): A voice synthesis apparatus for analyzing a series of characters from text including symbol characters and for outputting the characters by voice synthesis, comprising:

a detection module that detects a paragraph section line having a recurrent string pattern in the series of characters, and that deletes the paragraph section line from the series of characters so that all of the series of characters remain except for the paragraph section line,

wherein the paragraph section line marks a boundary between paragraphs of the text, and the recurrent string pattern includes a plurality of strings each having a plurality of kinds or symbol characters; and

a voice synthesis module that performs voice synthesis of all of the series of characters remaining after deletion of the paragraph section line by the detection

module.

Claim 10 (New): A voice synthesis apparatus of claim 9, wherein the recurrent string pattern includes one kind of symbol character that is repeated a plurality of times and another kind of symbol character.